

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF
THE TORRANCE TRAFFIC COMMISSION**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Torrance Traffic Commission convened in a regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, November 6, 2006 in the West Annex meeting room at Torrance City Hall.

2. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Santome.

3. ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Galvin, Lee*, Santome, Tsao, Ulrich, and Chairperson Lewis.

Absent: Commissioner Rische.

Also Present: Transportation Manager Semaan,
Project Manager Sedadi,
City Engineer Bilezerian,
Torrance Police Department Sergeant Carreras, and
Torrance Police Department Officer Garver.

*Commissioner Lee arrived at 7:10 p.m.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to grant an excused absence to Commissioner Rische for the November 6, 2006 Traffic Commission meeting. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

4. AFFIDAVIT OF POSTING

MOTION: Commissioner Ulrich moved to accept and file the report of the City Clerk on the posting of the agenda for this meeting. Commissioner Santome seconded the motion; a voice vote reflected unanimous approval.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5a. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 2, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Ulrich moved for the approval of the October 2, 2006 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ulrich and passed by unanimous roll call vote (absent Commissioners Rische and Lee, abstention by Commissioner Galvin).

6. ITEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION

6a. VAN NESS AVENUE AND 182ND STREET – LEFT-TURN PHASING STUDY

City Engineer Bilezerian provided background and analysis on the material of record and introduced consultants Stephen Hilton and Raymond Abassi from the engineering firm of AAE, Inc.

Mr. Hilton presented a Left-Turn Phasing Analysis that was prepared by his firm in September 2006 to determine if it is warranted to add protected left-turn phasing at the intersection of 182nd Street and Van Ness Avenue. The analysis, included in Attachment A, consists of digital photography, data from field surveys, traffic counts, level of service analysis, left-turn delay study, intersection accident analysis, stopping sight distance, and left-turn phasing warrants.

He noted that the intersection does not satisfy the Los Angeles County, Cal Trans, or Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) warrants for left-turn phasing; however, the Traffic Commission could decide to forward a recommendation to City Council to install protected left-turn phasing. He described Protected/Permissive or Protective Only left-turn phasing on all four approaches at the intersection that could also be considered for recommendation.

Commissioner Lee arrived at 7:10 p.m.

In response to Commissioner Ulrich's inquiry, Mr. Hilton explained that the safest phasing is a green left arrow protected phase.

Transportation Manager Semaan noted that the warrants are guidance documents and do not preclude staff, the Commission, or City Council from making recommendations.

Commissioner Ulrich received clarification from staff that several other intersections in the City have been identified as higher in priority for traffic signal enhancements and that, based on the data, there would most likely be no state or federal grant funds available for the proposed installation.

Responding to Commissioner Santome's inquiry regarding possible Metro funding, Project Manager Sedadi explained that the volumes of 182nd Street and Van Ness Avenue were not regional enough to be part of the Tier I Los Angeles County project, but that a request could be resubmitted in 2007.

Commissioner Santome received clarification that two of eight accidents from January 1, 2002 to April 30, 2006 were identified as being a pattern related to left-turning vehicles colliding with vehicles proceeding straight.

When Commissioner Santome suggested the possibility of changing lane markings or striping to increase visibility at the intersection, City Engineer Bilezerian indicated that the intersection did not allow any striping alignments to be made.

Commissioner Galvin received clarification that it would not be efficient to switch from Protective Only to Protective/Permissive phasing due to liability reasons.

Traffic Engineer Abassi noted that the intersection would remain within the range of Level of Service 'A' if either Protective/Permissive or Protective Only phasing was installed.

In response to Commissioner Ulrich's inquiry, Sergeant Carreras and Officer Garver indicated that there have been no requests for special enforcement at the intersection.

Chairperson Lewis noted that a contributing factor was drivers speeding from the signal at Western Avenue and the San Diego Freeway. He stated that there was no way

to determine if the petition was signed due to misleading wording that says that there is a fatal accident once a month at the intersection.

At 7:32 p.m., Chairperson Lewis welcomed public input.

Jane Ikegami, West 177th Street, received clarification that the final study was prepared in August/September 2006 and that traffic volumes were collected in April 2005. She requested that a separate hearing be held on the issue to allow sufficient time for residents to review the Left Turn Analysis Report.

Robert Vincent, Amapola Avenue, stated that he has not observed any real challenges at the intersection and noted a typographic error in the study.

Jonathan Driegert, Normandie Avenue, stated that the intersection was dangerous and voiced his support for a second hearing.

MOTION: Commissioner Santome moved to recommend that staff schedule a public hearing on February 5, 2007 to discuss left-turn phasing at Van Ness Avenue and 182nd Street. Commissioner Ulrich seconded the motion; a roll call vote reflected unanimous approval (absent Commissioner Rische).

Transportation Manager Semaan noted that supplemental material received after agenda packets were printed was available at this meeting.

7. ORALS

7a. Commissioner Galvin proposed that a second Oral Communications session be included at the beginning of the Traffic Commission meetings and staff offered to bring back an item for the Commission's consideration at a future meeting.

7b. Elizabeth Brown, Nadine Circle, stated that there has been no response to her August 7, 2006 request under Orals to extend a red zone at Access 7 and install two speed limit signs at 229th Place and Nadine Circle.

City Engineer Bilezerian stated that based on staff review there is not a speeding problem but offered to look at the location of existing signage again. He suggested that she send a letter or e-mail directly to the Public Works Department.

8. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:49 p.m., Chairperson Lewis adjourned the meeting to December 4, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Approved as Submitted December 4, 2006 s/ Sue Herbers, City Clerk
